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THE LION KING

A NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

31

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Ostrich
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Grapevine

What is our elephant's favourite sport?

jumping

Greg Alexander, age 10

Hi there!

In Puzzles this week there are some spoonerisms. These are sentences that sound strange because the first letters of two words have been swapped. For example, Timon said, "I want a snug back!" He really meant, "I want a bug snack!" My reporters think spoonerisms are the berry best, so we're going to run a competition. If you can think of a good one, please send it in before 9th September, 1996. Write 'Spoonerisms Competition' on the envelope. There's a prize for the one the Grapevine team likes best.

Write to:
Kim,
The Lion King,
PO Box 1,
Buntingford, Cambs CB9 9HL

Kim



Amy Wright

WHAT A NERVE!

Have you ever seen a baboon catch a lift on a zebra before? Neither have I. This photo was taken in South Africa by a friend of mine. Every time I see it I laugh so much it makes me 'hoarse'. Doesn't it look funny! Poor zebra, looks like she's being taken for a ride!

PRESS CARD

Stop Press: Kivun



SWINGING SAUSAGES

It's no wonder this tree is called a sausage tree. Its dangling fruits look just like bangers! The tree grows in Africa and its 'sausages' can weigh as much as 7kg. They're the biggest bangers I've ever seen! For some, sausage trees are sacred. They use the fruit in medicine to cure sickness, and in magic to make people rich.

PRESS CARD

Swinging Sausage Tree



Daniel Cawley

WATCH OUT FOR

There are seven caterpillars like the one below crawling round this magazine. Can you find them all?



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PUZZLES



BAFIN REMEMBERS

How squirrel got his tail

FREE IN PART 32

Rub-down transfers for your wildlife scene - two playful lion cubs romping around!

SIMBA'S WORLD

FAMOUS FOR BEING RUTHLESS KILLERS, WILD DOGS ARE IN FACT SKILLED HUNTERS. THEY KILL ONLY TO FEED THE MEMBERS OF THE PACK THEY BELONG TO. AS CARING PARENTS, THEY ALLOW THEIR PUPS TO FEED FIRST.

African wild dogs

FACT FILE

WILD DOG

Lycaon pictus

SIZE: Males and females are about the same size. They grow to a length of 100cm, with a tail of 40cm. The packs that live in the south are a little larger and heavier than those in East Africa.

RANGE: They live in open grasslands and semi-deserts from the Sudan to South Africa. Some also live on the slopes of Kilimanjaro.

DIET: They only eat live prey, such as antelopes and other grazing mammals.

YOUNG: They can have litters of 2-16, but usually have 7 or 8.

LIFESPAN: 10-12 years.

There are several different kinds of wild dogs in Africa, such as jackals and foxes. But the name 'african wild dog' is used only for the kind that has a brown and yellow patterned coat and large rounded, or oval, ears. These dogs are sometimes called Cape hunting dogs, too.

African wild dogs are a little smaller than hyenas, but larger than jackals. They have dark brown coats with yellow and white blotches, a bushy, white-tipped tail and slim

legs. They live in packs and are some of the most successful hunting animals on the plains. There are more males than females in a pack and these males are usually all related to each other. It is the females who have to go off and find themselves a new pack when they are fully grown.

WIDE BY SIDE

Pack members stay close together, resting in the shade during the day and hunting on the plains at dusk and dawn.



SUPERMUM

Once a year, the most important female of the pack mates with the most important male. The burrow she chooses to give birth in is often a disguised hole made by a warthog or sundew. She may have up to 16 pups, though usually it is about eight. As with other wild dogs, the newborn pups are blind and helpless. They spend the first three weeks in the safety of the burrow, feeding on their mother's milk. Once their eyes have opened, the mother brings them outside for their first meal of solid food.



WOW!

Although the job of raising a litter of pups is shared between the members of a pack, the pups continue to drink their mother's milk until they are about 12 weeks old. One pack in the Ngongoro Game had only one female. One year she gave birth to nine pups, but died when they were only five weeks old. The males then took over the job of raising the pups. They guarded them and fed them regurgitated meat at the burrow until they were strong enough to follow the pack.

A MEALTIME

This pup is licking an adult's mouth to make it cough up food. The adult has just returned from a kill. It gulped down extra food so that it could feed the pups. The young ones stay at the home base, guarded by one or more members of the pack, until they are three months old.

WILDLIFE CITY PUP

When the male female has a litter of pups, the rest of the pack make a base at the burrow. They stay with the mother until the pups are strong enough to follow the pack from place to place.



TEAM WORK

Wild dogs nearly always hunt in groups. Unlike cheetahs and lions, they don't have sharp talons for grabbing hold of and swiping at their prey. Nor do they have extra-strong neck and jaw muscles for clamping their mouth round an animal's neck to suffocate it. Instead, they rely on their excellent eyesight and strong legs to catch their prey. Not only can they run very fast – they can sprint along at 60km per hour – but because of their powerful lungs they can also keep up their high-speed chase over a distance of several kilometres.

Before they set off to hunt, they whimper at each other and rub muzzles excitedly. This is a way of helping them work together during the chase.



LOOKING FOR A MEAL
Wild dogs don't try to surprise their prey, as lions and cheetahs do. They move around the plains in full view of the grazing animals, watching for a likely meal. As soon as they start to run, the herds scatter and then the serious chase begins.

TUCKING IN
Once the dogs have caught up with their prey, they grab it from behind or attack its sides with their sharp teeth. They quickly tear it to pieces, bolting down their food before larger predators, such as lions, can chase them off.



THE CHASE

One or two members of the pack may choose one particular antelope to chase. The others run with them, watching the leaders' movements and fanning out to block off the antelope's escape routes.

Thomson's gazelles, like this one, do not run in a straight line – instead they zig-zag or run in a wide circle. Different members of the pack take the lead at various points during the chase, depending on which way the gazelle moves.



The three friends scoured the bushes in which they had taken their nap, but they couldn't find Spike. They moved out through the long grass, searching, shouting and listening. But all they found were a family of grazing antelopes and all they heard was the cry of a mother leopard calling her cubs. Finally, they reached the wallow and Pumbaa slumped down, miserably, and laid his big head between his hooves.

"It's all my fault," he sobbed. "I shouldn't have gone back to sleep, you know. Now Spike's all on his own, with nobody to look after him. Maybe that leopard will find him and give him to her cubs for dinner."

"Don't blame yourself," insisted Simba. "None of us should have gone

to sleep until we knew that Spike was already napping."

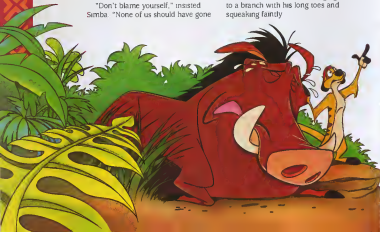
"Cut out that yabbering, you two," cried Timon as he stretched up on tiptoe, his head to one side. "I hear sweet music coming from over there."

Pumbaa and Simba stood up. "Music?" murmured Simba, "I can't hear."

He suddenly stopped and watched in amazement as Pumbaa tore off in the direction of a large thorny bush. The two friends followed and, as they ran, Timon

explained that the music he was talking about was a little piping voice that seemed to be calling "Mummy". Sure enough, when they reached the tree, there was the chick, clinging on to a branch with his long toes and squeaking faintly.

Mummy Pumbaa Part 3



"The poor thing's tangled up among the thorns and doesn't know how to get out," said Simba.

"I'll get him!" cried Timon. He clambered into the bush, reached towards the branch and took hold of the terrified chick, guiding him through the thorns.

Pumbaa didn't know whether to hug Spike or be cross with him. But when he saw that the little chick was trembling all over, he just said, "Hi junior. We missed you. Do you want to hop on?"

The little chick hopped from Timon on to Pumbaa's snout and clung up to his mane. He snuggled down in the long hairs and was soon fast asleep.

The next morning, as soon as the sun had risen, Pumbaa took Spike off to get some breakfast. He showed him where to find caterpillars and how to catch a wriggling centipede. Then he tried to teach him the Pumbaa Rumba, but Spike kept crossing his feet and falling over.

"It probably takes a while to get used to those big feet of yours," laughed Pumbaa as the chick landed on his feathered bottom for about the tenth time.

As they made their way back to Simba and Timon, Spike asked, "One day, will I grow tusks just like yours, Mummy?"

Pumbaa pretended he hadn't heard the question and started to hum loudly. But later, when they met up with their friends, he sent Spike off to play while he told the meerkat and the lion about the chick's tricky question.

"What should we do, guys?" he



asked. "I don't think he realizes that he's a bird."

"Yeah," agreed Timon, "and if he goes on thinking he's a hog, he'll behave just like one. And that - no offence, Pumbaa - would be a disaster if he ever wants to get himself a cute little lady ostrich. Can you imagine what she'd say if he asked her to come for a wallow in a sinking mud pool?"

Simba was washing Spike who was now sitting down and trying to rub his gurgling tummy with his beak.

"Mmm," agreed the young lion.

"And I don't think our food suits him either. Sorry Pumbaa, but I feel we ought to find him an ostrich family. He needs to grow up with other ostriches, not with three banana brains like us."

Pumbaa gave a deep sigh. He knew Simba was right and anyway, this parenting business wasn't quite as easy as he had thought.

They decided not to tell Spike their plan. Instead they would wait and see if he liked his new family – that's if they could find one.

They set off through the trees, but after searching for a couple of hours, they still hadn't come across a single ostrich. Then Pumbaa suggested trying the area where he'd found the egg. A short distance from there they came to a clearing and saw a family of seven fluffy chicks and their tall parents, nibbling peacefully at grass seeds. When the mother saw Simba she stepped protectively in front of her chicks, but Simba said, "We have an ostrich chick with us

and we're looking for his family. Can you help?"

"Well, I lost an egg a few days ago," replied the ostrich, but she was

interrupted by Spike's voice chirping, "Mummy, who are those creatures?"

Immediately, the mother ostrich's head swivelled in Spike's direction and she ruffled her body feathers. "I know that voice," she said. "I remember it from when I was

sitting on my eggs and the chicks inside cheeped to me." She ran towards Spike, crying, "My baby, my baby! I thought you'd been eaten. And now here you are, returned to us."

She wrapped her big wings round him and called the other chicks. They crowded round noisily to greet their brother.

Pumbaa walked up to her and explained everything that had happened.



The ostrich thanked him many times, bobbing her head.

"And to think," she said to her mate, "all that time we presumed he'd been snatched by a jackal. And then, when I recognized that little voice – the same one I'd heard when I was sitting on the egg – I nearly died with joy!"

"Isn't it wonderful?" agreed the father. "And now we must let these kind rescuers go."

The three friends waved goodbye to Spike, who was chatting excitedly to his new family, and headed back through the trees.

Timon was the first to say something. "At least he won't go drowning himself in squeaky mud anymore," he commented.

"Or stuffing himself with too many bugs," added Simba.

"You said it, guys."

agreed Pumbaa.

"We sure did the right thing." But as they strolled along, he thought to himself, "I sure am going to miss that fluffy body snuggling up to my cheek at night and that piping little voice calling me 'Mummy'!"

NEXT WEEK: SIMBA AND HIS FELS CHALLENGE A CHEETAH TO A RACE



Get Drawing

Walk-tall Giraffe

1 Draw a triangle for the head and a long, sweeping line for the neck. Attach an oval for the body. Then draw two more sweeping lines for the front legs and two crossed lines for the back legs.



2 Now draw all the outlines: small curves round the triangle for the head; a graceful line on each side of the neck line; the little bulge above the back and then the back itself. Before you draw the legs and feet, look carefully to see where the joints come.



Get Making



4 Draw in the jazzy markings - they look a bit like broken glass. Then, to complete your drawing, add the markings on the mane and tail, the pupil, eyebrow and the line under the eye. Look at the finished drawing here and make some of the lines a bit thicker.

3 Sharpen your pencil and carefully pick out details on the nose, mouth, nostrils, eye and ear. Add the mane and tail and the little curved line on the belly. Draw the tail and divide the hoofs.



ZAZU'S

MAKE & DO

YOU WILL NEED

two empty squeeze bottles
marker pens
Plasticine
stapler
1m-long plastic tube about
5mm in diameter (you can
buy this from chemists or
pet shops)
elastic band
balloon
bottle

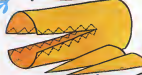
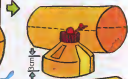
Sly croc sub

Make this croc submarine from two squeeze bottles, then try it out next time you have a bath.

- 1 Wash both bottles inside and out to get rid of the soap. Mark a line right round one of the bottles with a marker pen, cut off the top and bottom as shown. Keep the top – you'll need it later.



- 2 Mark a big V-shape on each side of the bottle for the mouth and cut out. Save the V-shapes. Draw in zig-zag teeth on the top and bottom jaws and cut out.



- 3 In the other bottle, cut two slits in the places shown to leave a strip of plastic in the centre, 5mm wide. Then cut outwards from the ends of each slit to form two flaps. Squeeze a piece of Plasticine round the strip.

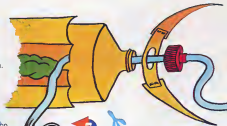
- 4 Now take the top part from step 1 and cut a strip to fit in. Make an oval hole big enough to fit over the neck of the bottle. Staple one of the long, V-shaped strips to each end of the strip. This will be the tail.



- 5 Remove the bottle-top and cut off the little lid. Widen the hole with the point of a pair of scissors. Do it a bit at a time until the plastic tube fits through.



- 6 Thread about 15cm of tube through the hole. Thread on the tail part and put the top back on to the bottle.



- 7 Blow up a small balloon a few times to make it supple. Pull out the end of the tube from inside the bottle. Push the tube into the neck of the balloon and loop an elastic band several times round the neck.

Zazu's Safety Tip

Be careful when cutting the squeeze bottles. If you aren't sure you can do it safely, ask an adult to help.

To operate

Try out your croc in the bath. First turn him upside-down so that his belly fills with water. He should sink. If not, add more Plasticine. Now blow down the tube a little. He should start to rise. Blow harder and the croc's snout breaks the surface.



11cm

5mm

- 8** Push the tube back in to the bottle so that the balloon is at the front end. Then staple the tail together.

- 9** Push the head on to the bottle and then paint your croc. Use waterproof colours, such as enamel modelling paints. You can use muddy browns or swamp greens, or, for a really slick finish, try metallic colours.



Foil boats

Simple questions, such as, 'How do the clouds stay up in the sky?' are often the hardest to answer. Here's another: 'Why do ships float?'

- 1** Cut two, 30cm-square pieces of foil. On one, place 10 paperclips, then scrunch into a tight ball. Fold the other into a raft as shown.

- 2** Fill a bowl with water and try to float the ball on the surface. What happens? Now put 10 paperclips into the raft and place it on the surface. What happens?



HOW IT WORKS

Boats afloat

The ball and raft have the same amount of foil and paperclips, but one sinks and the other floats, so something about them must be different. The main thing is the shape. The ball is squashed - it has some air inside, but not enough to make it float. The raft is shaped so it holds more air. Steel ships weighing many tonnes are shaped in such a way that they have air inside that is below the level of the water outside.



ASIAN RAINFOREST

A FIERCE FIGHT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE LUSH RAINFORESTS OF ASIA - THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL. MANY PLANTS AND ANIMALS HAVE DEVELOPED WILD AND WONDERFUL WAYS OF IMPROVING THEIR CHANCES.

The rainforests of Asia have more types of plants and animals than the rest of the continent put together. That's because there is always plenty of water, warmth and food. There are also plenty of opportunities for plants and animals. The better they use them, the better their chances of survival.

Tree dwellers need to be good at travelling between trees. For instance, the colugo can glide across branches which are up to 136m apart.

A bigger tree dweller is the gibbon which feeds on fruit and leaves. It has good eyesight for spotting the best tipples and hardly ever needs to leave the trees.



Colugos have skin stretching between their limbs. This gives them 'wings' for gliding between trees.



Male stalk-eyed flies face each other and compare stalks in a contest over territory.

► **GREAT FORESTS**
The rainforests of Asia are second only in size to those of South America. There is a total of 247 million hectares, but much of it is being chopped down.



"In the fight for survival winning means having lots and lots of young."

"In your parents' case, one was more than enough!"



Not all fruit eaters need to climb. The bearded hog eats fruit that has fallen on to the forest floor. Another ground feeder is the shy tapir which snuffles among the bushes with its long snout, searching for juicy leaves.

Climbing plants use the tall trees for support. The nastur has spines on its stem which give it grip as it climbs. Other plants, called epiphytes, get light by squatting on trees' upper branches.

Pitcher plants have a horrifying way of getting the food they need: they eat insects. The plants have a jug-shaped part which contains water. Insects are lured to the edge of the jug in search of sweet nectar. If they slip and fall in, there is no escape. Some pitchers have frogs and spiders hiding just under the rim, waiting for a meal to drop by.



1. Flying lizard
2. Lor gibbon
3. Sun bear
4. Imperial green pigeon
5. Clouded leopard
6. Banana tree
7. Orange flying snake
8. Malayan tiger
9. Pangolin
10. Fish-eating plant
11. Scorpion rhino
12. Slender orchid
13. Giant stick insect
14. Turtle
15. Archer fish
16. Bull heron
17. Pander butterfly
18. Baya's brooding butterfly
19. Jungle fowl
20. Leaf frog

At the top of the forest there is plenty of light. Some animals live their whole lives up here, feasting on leaves and fruit.

As you climb higher, so it gets lighter. Many animals at this level are good at climbing up and down in search of food and shelter.

Away from the river the forest floor is dark. Animals feed on fallen fruit and insects hidden among the dead leaves.

A river forms a break in the dense forest cover. Light can reach the river banks, so many plants can grow here.



PUZZLES

SILLY SNAKES

Rithering, slithering and swaging through the jungle are some slinky snakes. How many can you count?

HOW LONG?

Which snake is the longest?
And which is the shortest?
Use a piece of cotton to check
if you are right!

SNAKING THROUGH

These lymbed-snakes are crawling through leaves. They have a number pattern on their skins. Can you work out the order and fill in the hidden numbers?

SNAKE TANGLE

Some snakes get together to hibernate through the winter. How many are there in this knotty pile?

MORE PUZZLES



NUMBER PATTERNS
These snakes are winding themselves on number-patterned floors. Can you work out which numbers are under the snakes?

Shenzi: "What's a snake's favourite game?"
Ed: "Ergh?"
Shenzi: "How cheeky!"

SSSSSSPOONERISMSSSSS

A spoonerism is when you swap the beginning letters of two words in a sentence. It is named after Dr Spooner who was famous for doing this. Here is one of his mixed up sayings. Can you work it out?

"You have hissed your mystery lesson and fasted three worms. Leave tomorrow by the town drain."



Shenzi: "Guess what a snake's favourite food is?"
Ed: "Ermm..."
Shenzi: "Slither and bared!"



SLYAKY WORDS
Can you read these words?
Clue: a small head mirror will help you. Try designing your own mystery words.



RAFIKI REMEMBERS HOW SQUIRREL GOT HIS TAIL

"ONCE RABBIT, NOT SQUIRREL, WAS THE ONE WITH THE BUSHY TAIL. BUT SQUIRREL TRICKED HIM - AND THIS IS HOW."

Rabbit and Squirrel were great friends. However, something happened to put an end to their friendship.

They didn't look quite as they do today. Rabbit had a tail, while Squirrel had none. Squirrel was very envious of Rabbit's tail - and no wonder! It was long and bushy and russet red.

"It would suit me more than him," Squirrel thought to himself. "I wonder if he will lend it to me?"

When Squirrel asked Rabbit, his friend refused saying, "I don't want to be left without a tail - I'll look silly."

Squirrel did not worry him about it for a while, but he kept thinking, "Rabbit's tail really would suit me. I must ask him again."

One day he met Rabbit and said, "Please lend me your tail. Don't say 'no'. I only want to borrow it for a short while, let's say a week. Then I'll give it back to you."

Rabbit reluctantly agreed and handed over his tail to Squirrel who put it on. As Squirrel strutted about, other animals came up to him and said, "That's a fine tail - where did you get it?" To which, Squirrel replied, "Rabbit has given it to me."

"You are lucky," said the animals. "That tail suits you very well."





By the end of the week, Squirrel had grown so fond of the tail that he couldn't bear to part with it. So the days went by and Squirrel conveniently forgot to give back the tail. Finally, Rabbit arrived at Squirrel's house – and he was in a very bad mood.

"You are a liar and a thief," he shouted at Squirrel. "You have not returned my tail, even though you said you would. Give it back to me right this minute!"

In answer, Squirrel rushed up the nearest tree. "Come and get it!" he teased. "Come on – climb up after me and get your tail!"

"You know I can't climb trees," said Rabbit. "Come down here!"

"No," said Squirrel. "If you won't come up this tree, you won't get it."

Then Rabbit knew he was beaten. As he wandered off, he thought, "What am I going to do now? All the other animals have tails. I'll look out of place." And so Rabbit chose to live away from other creatures and hide himself among the rocks.



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